

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-23. (Cancelled)

24. (New) A digital broadcasting system, comprising:

a transmitter that transmits a first transport stream in a first service area, the first transport stream including:

links between first programs in the first transport stream and second programs in one or more transport streams in one or more adjacent service areas, and priorities for the links; and

a receiver that selects a program being transmitted in one of the adjacent service areas using the links and the priorities.

25. (New) The system of claim 24, wherein the transmitter describes the links and the priorities using a link descriptor in at least one of a network information table, a service description table, and an event information table.

26. (New) The system of claim 25, wherein the transmitter identifies the priority of each link in a linkage_type field or in a private_data_byte field in the link descriptor.

27. (New) A digital broadcasting transmitter, comprising:
a multiplexer unit; and
a system controller, wherein the multiplexer unit and the system controller provide a first transport stream in a first service area, the first transport stream including:
links between first programs in the first transport stream and second programs in one or more transport streams in one or more adjacent service areas, and
priorities for the links.

28. (New) The digital broadcasting transmitter of claim 27, wherein the multiplexer unit and the system controller include the links and the priorities in a network information table in the first transport stream.

29. (New) The digital broadcasting transmitter of claim 27, wherein the multiplexer unit and the system controller include the links and the priorities in a service description table in the first transport stream.

30. (New) The digital broadcasting transmitter of claim 27, wherein the multiplexer unit and the system controller include the links and the priorities in an event information table in the first transport stream.

31. (New) The digital broadcasting transmitter of claim 27, wherein the multiplexer unit and the system controller rank the links based on the priorities.

32. (New) The digital broadcasting transmitter of claim 27, wherein the multiplexer unit and the system controller include the links and the priorities in a link descriptor in at least one of a network information table, a service description table, and an event information table.

33. (New) The digital broadcasting transmitter of claim 32, wherein the multiplexer unit and the system controller identify the priority of each link in a linkage_type field or in a private_data_byte field in the link descriptor.

34. (New) A digital broadcasting receiver, comprising:
extracting means for extracting, from a first transport stream in a first service area:

links between first programs in the first transport stream and second programs in one or more transport streams in one or more adjacent service areas, and
priorities for the links; and

selection means for selecting a program in one of the adjacent service areas based on the links and the priorities when the receiver moves into the adjacent service area.

35. (New) The digital broadcasting receiver of claim 34, further comprising:
detection means for detecting a location of the receiver, wherein the selection means selects the program based on the location.

36. (New) The digital broadcasting receiver of claim 35, wherein the detection means detects the location using a global positioning system.

37. (New) The digital broadcasting receiver of claim 35, wherein the detection means:

receives input of location information; and

determines the location using the location information.

38. (New) The digital broadcasting receiver of claim 34, comprising:
first receiver means for receiving the first transport stream; and
second receiver means for searching, using the selection means, for the program.

39. (New) The digital broadcasting receiver of claim 34, wherein the selection means searches the links in order of the priorities.

40. (New) A digital broadcasting receiver, comprising:
extracting means for extracting, from a first transport stream in a first service area, links between first programs in the first transport stream and second programs in one or more transport streams in one or more adjacent service areas; and
selection means for determining priorities for the links using the links and for selecting a program in one of the adjacent service areas based on the priorities when the receiver moves into the adjacent service area.

41. (New) The digital broadcasting receiver of claim 40, wherein the selection means determines the priorities using a history of moving the receiver among the adjacent service areas.

42. (New) The digital broadcasting receiver of claim 40, wherein the selection means determines the priorities using a pre-defined ranking of the adjacent service areas.

43. (New) The digital broadcasting receiver of claim 40, wherein the selection means determines the priorities using the number of links for each adjacent service area.

44. (New) A method for digital broadcasting, comprising:
generating a first transport stream including a link descriptor, the link descriptor:
describing programs offered in second transport streams in adjacent service areas, and
including priorities of the second transport streams, each priority indicating an order for replacing the first transport stream with each second transport stream; and
transmitting the first transport stream.